

UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

“It shall be the duty of the Committee on Publication to correct in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science, injustices done Mrs. Eddy or members of this Church by the daily press, by periodicals or circulated literature of any sort.” Church Manual, Article XXXIII, Section 2

Message from the Manager of Committees on Publication

Committees on Publication see rich opportunities to bring lifting and healing to common misconceptions in public thought about Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, and members. It is a special privilege to witness the corrective authority and power of Truth. Truth reverses and negates the attempts of the carnal mind to undermine or dismiss the incredible gift the Comforter is to humanity. As a citation from a recent Bible Lesson affirmed, speaking of this material sense testimony, “Their false evidence will finally yield to Truth, — to the recognition of Spirit and of the spiritual creation” (SH 287:29).

One of the leading impositions Committees on Publication address relates to our healing practice — the suggestion that it is not effective, does not heal as it used to, or that Christian Science is too hard to understand and demonstrate. Sometimes these suggestions might subtly masquerade as our own thoughts through self-doubt, worry, or fear, or through an unsettling conversation. Yet, there is an answer to these misconceptions. Remembering our healing demonstrations helps us glimpse the practical and present reality of this Science and shines light on its efficacy.

In the *Church Manual*, Mrs. Eddy reminds us that, “Testimony in regard to the healing of the sick is highly important. More than a mere rehearsal of blessings, it scales the pinnacle of praise and illustrates the demonstration of Christ, ‘who healeth all thy diseases’ (Psalm 103:3)” (Man. 47:13–17). This important counsel helps us recognize that this record of healing, individually and collectively as a church, is important for the progress and prosperity of our Cause.

As members the world over have found, there can be something sacred and quite holy about sharing a healing — the deep gratitude for the physical transformation as well as the spiritual renewal and uplift that is integral in each experience. These thoughtful individual accounts, shared from the heart, often dissolve an imposition on thought about Christian Science or invite a listener to meet the conversation with more respect and consideration.

Spiritual listening and discernment lead the way when offering these examples. There is a certain honesty and wisdom in sharing a healing. Of course, there are times when we can hardly contain our joy, and we may embrace the natural impulsion to shout it from the rooftops. Then there are other times we hold them in our hearts. Either way, as Mrs. Eddy counseled, “great charity and humility are necessary in this work of healing” (Mis. 7:7-8), and when speaking about our healings. Our healings are the outgrowth of a deeply meaningful Christian way of life, and Christ Jesus’ “meekness and might” show us the way (SH 30:32). Wisely drawing on our demonstrated experiences, we are better able to consider how to respond thoughtfully to our neighbors’ questions and concerns. It is helpful to speak from the heart based on our own experience, and perhaps that of our own family, while noting that these personal accounts are humble examples of what many Christian Scientists have experienced. In this way, we protect the healing and don’t speak beyond what we have personally been able to demonstrate. When sharing, it is also helpful to convey

in readily accessible terms something of the spiritual awakening to God's presence that was felt and that resulted in healing.

A new book, developed by the Office of the Committee on Publication and published by The Christian Science Publishing Society, aims to do just that. *Christian Science: Continuing Evidence of Christ-healing* came from a deep love for God and man. By bearing witness to heartfelt gratitude for genuine healing through Christian Science treatment, it offers humanity a clear view of lives renewed and restored through the love of an all-good, all-present, all-powerful God. This book is the latest in a rich collection of testimony compilation books published by the Church. There's something quite powerful and inspiring about testimonies of Christian Science healing assembled into a book. When you start reading it, the takeaway is unmistakable – healing is normal and natural.

It was with deep joy that we considered the opportunity to magnify for the public the richness of what we already know so well of this Science. We turned to the treasure trove of testimonies submitted by members from around the world, published in the Christian Science periodicals – *Christian Science Sentinel*, *The Christian Science Journal*, and *The Herald of Christian Science*. Those working on the project often felt overcome with tears of gratitude for the privilege of reading these accounts, speaking with each testifier, and feeling deeply touched by the efficacy of healing. The book is filled with testimonies that speak to the heart, share a clarity of Christian Science practice, and demonstrate how daily living the Christ, Truth, leads to healing.

It is this heart that resonates with readers. It's wonderful to report that people have been eager to purchase, gift, and read this book, and it is speaking to people at different points in their experience with Christian Science. The fruitage we are already hearing speaks to the healing results of this genuine corrective work. Here's one example that was shared with me by a Committee on Publication.

An Assistant Committee had begun reading the new book. For some years now, she's been striving to let go of outworn notions of Christian Science, really seeking the Truth and not opinion or belief. Her grown son, who was raised in Christian Science but is not practicing, was recently diagnosed with a condition and scheduled for surgery. She supported him as any mother would, but both she and her son were fearful. The night before the surgery, she read the new healing book for a while. When she put it down, she began to pray with all the light of God's reality and goodness that she had been seeing in those healings, not giving Christian Science treatment, but genuinely worshipping God. She experienced a lifting of fear and was able to go to sleep. The next morning, she got a call from her son. Instead of being in surgery, he had been released and sent home because the doctors could find nothing wrong. She had read about such things happening, but had now experienced it for herself. And though she knows that her son might see this a little differently, she remains deeply grateful and deeply awed.

This book brings the tithes into the storehouse and reminds us that sharing how we've been helped and healed in Christian Science is a gift to humanity – bringing hope, healing, and salvation to the world.



Scott C. Shivers, C.S.B.
Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication

Inspiration and updates from your Committee on Publication

Note from the Federal Office:

The U.S. Federal Office of the Committee on Publication is interested in hearing from church members who have had experience in requesting reimbursement from a health savings account (HSA) for the costs of Christian Science practitioner care, Christian Science nursing care, or Christian Science nursing facility care.

Background:

An HSA is an account established under section 223(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to receive contributions from individuals and employers to be used for the reimbursement of costs related to “medical care,” as that term is defined under Section 213(d) of the IRC. We are grateful that the IRS has historically interpreted the term “medical care” in 213(d) to include the various forms of Christian Science care. You can find more information about HSA’s and Christian Science care coverage at the [Federal Office website](#).

If you have experience in using your HSA to pay for Christian Science care services, the Federal Office would love to hear from you! Please either email federal@csps.com or call (202) 296-2190.

If you know of other church members who might have experience using an HSA to pay for Christian Science care, please feel free to share this message with them directly and privately (**but please don’t post via social media**).

If you have questions about any of the information in this message, feel welcome to be in touch with the Federal Office.

Metaphysical inspiration guiding the Committee work - Committee on Publication Highlights:

Back in October, the Manager’s Office held a world-wide Committee on Publication conference in Boston. This was a wonderful and happy occasion for Committees from around the world to come together to get to know one another, to learn how Committees have been correcting “in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science...” in their jurisdictions and to share ideas from the heart of Mrs. Eddy’s *Manual* provision of Article 33, Committee on Publication. The theme for the conference was God-endowed discipleship (My. 188:29), focusing on the Sermon on the Mount. Throughout our time together it was evident that there is continuous love for God and unity in our work in the Committee office and that all things are working together for good to them that love God. (Rom. 8:28) Our time together was inspirational, uplifting, healing, joyous and love-filled.

Branch church/society visits and talks:

It is always a privilege to have an opportunity to visit Missouri branch churches and societies, whether it is for a Committee on Publication church talk, attending a church service, or a lecture. I welcome the possibility to meet with your branch church or society, where we may share with each

other spiritual inspirations pertaining to Church, specific to the *Manual-By-Law*, Article 33, Committee on Publication. If your branch church or society is interested in having the Committee on Publication visit with your members, feel free to reach out and we can consider some possible dates and what this might look like. These visits allow us to come together and share gratitude for the continuous unfoldment of good and the demonstration of divine Love being expressed.

Assistant Committees:

As always, I am thankful for the continuous, steadfast, and uplifting metaphysical support of each branch church/society's Assistant Committee (ACOM). Assistant Committees play an important role in the *Manual*-based activity of the Committee on Publication. ACOMs provide an opportunity to support the Committee work both practically and metaphysically.

Communication between branch church ACOMs and the Committee on Publication enables both the Committee and the branch church/society to be aware of any impositions on the public that may arise in their jurisdiction. This communication allows Assistant Committees and the Committee on Publication to work closely together in a "Christian manner" to correct misconceptions regarding Christian Science. This role is appointed by the Committee on Publication as needed.

With love and gratitude,
Susan Frank, C.S.B.
Missouri Committee on Publication

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